

TGS MASTER OF ARTS IN BIOETHICS (MA/BE)

Mission Statement

The MA in Bioethics (MA/BE) equips students to analyze bioethical issues in healthcare and biotechnology and to engage bioethical challenges in relevant contexts.

Program Objectives & Outcomes

Students graduating from the MA/BE program will be able to:

- Understand the current and emerging bioethical issues in healthcare and biotechnology
- Discern the differences among competing contemporary approaches to ethics and bioethics
- Engage bioethical challenges in public policy, clinical healthcare, and biomedical research contexts
- Employ culturally-sensitive biblical and theological frameworks for addressing issues in bioethics
- Think integratively, seeing beyond individual bioethical issues to deeper questions that underlie the bioethics field as a whole

The MA in Bioethics (MA/BE) is designed with various groups of students in mind, including those who are presently—or aspire to be—physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals; lawyers; people with political, public policy, social service, and ministry interests in pro-life and related areas; teachers in related university, college, or high school fields; and those involved in educating and engaging various constituencies through nonprofit organizations. The program is particularly well-suited for those with professional or other responsibilities who need a flexible 30-semester-hour program. There is also a multiple masters degree option for Trinity Evangelical Divinity School students and for Trinity Graduate School students, as well as a dual degree option for Trinity College undergraduates. By enrolling in online or remote courses, mentored and independent study work, and as few as one several-day campus course in the summer, the program can be completed without relocating near the Bannockburn, Illinois campus. Alternatively, a complete on-campus program is also available.

Program of Study

Code	Title	Hours
Foundation Courses		
Select two of the following: ¹		6
BE 5001	Foundations for Integrative Thought in Bioethics ²	
	or ID 5008 Biblical Theology and Interpretation	
BE 5002	Foundations for Cultural Engagement in Bioethics	
BE 7600	Theological Bioethics and Contemporary Alternatives ³	
Required Courses		
BE 5000	Introduction to Bioethics: Matters of Life and Dignity	3
	or BE 5100 Intensive Bioethics Institute	
BE 5200	Research Ethics	2
BE 5300	Clinical Issues in Bioethics ⁴	2
BE 5500	Bioethics and Public Policy ⁴	2
BE 6200	Ethical Theory	3
BE 6500	Advanced Bioethics Institute ⁵	3-4
Bioethics Capstone		
Select one of the following:		0-4
BE 7476	Bioethics Capstone Exam	
BE 7478	Bioethics Capstone Project	
BE 7480	Bioethics Capstone Integrative or Major Paper	
BE 7485	MA Thesis ⁶	
ID 6910	Research Methods (required with Thesis) ⁶	
Bioethics Electives		5-9
Students choose 5-9 hours from any of the courses listed below, depending on how many hours they earn for their capstone. Students should consult with an academic advisor in planning their individual programs of study.		
BE 5299	The Clinical Context ⁴	
BE 5400	Nursing Ethics	
BE 5499	The Public Policy Context ⁴	
BE 5600	Law and Bioethics	
BE 5700	The Right to Life & the Law	
BE 5800	Contemporary Issues in Bioethics	
BE 5900	Bioethics National Conference	
BE 6100	Bioethics Colloquium	
BE 6300	Bioethics, Human Dignity, and the Church	
BE 6400	Readings in Bioethics	
BE 6500	Advanced Bioethics Institute ¹	
BE 6600	Classic Cases in Bioethics	
BE 6700	Personhood in Theological & Philosophical Perspective	
BE 6800	Global Health and Justice	
BE 6950	Bioethics Practicum	
BE 7300	Advanced Clinical Ethics	
BE 7600	Theological Bioethics and Contemporary Alternatives	

BE 7700 Bioethics Seminar	
Total Hours	30

- ¹ Students who are graduates of a Christian college or university or a Bible college, or who have a strong background in the Bible and/or biblical theology may select the more advanced sequence of BE 5002 and BE 7600 to fulfill the foundation course requirements. All other students are encouraged to take the BE 5001/ID 5000 and BE 5002 sequence.
- ² ID 5000 is a TEDS online course that may be taken in place of BE 5001 for those who prefer to complete most of the bioethics program online. The content of BE 5001 is more focused on developing biblical competence and interpretive skills relevant for engagement in bioethics, and as such, students are strongly encouraged to consider this option.
- ³ BE 7600 may be taken either as part of the foundation course requirements or as a general elective.
- ⁴ Students relatively unfamiliar with clinical-medical and/or public policy settings should take the background courses BE 5299 and/or BE 5499. These courses can count for elective credit.
- ⁵ 3 hours fulfill requirement; 4th hour is elective.
- ⁶ BE 7485 requires ID 6910, a research methods course, as a prerequisite.

Required Capstone Experience (0-4 hours)

Preparation for work in the field of bioethics should include at least one endeavor that is not merely focused on a particular bioethical issue but is integrative in nature, encompassing multiple issues. The capstone course can involve taking a comprehensive exam in which broad essay questions allow the student to demonstrate a grasp of the field as a whole. Or it can involve writing an integrative paper, or developing a special project such as a bioethics curriculum, a sermon/talk series, or a written reflection on a clinical, public policy, or other bioethics-related internship experience. The paper or project can be done to fulfill an assignment in a non-capstone course, in which case the student registers for a 0-hour capstone course in the same semester as the other course. Alternatively, students may write a formal master's-level thesis BE 7485 after obtaining approval and instructions from the bioethics program director. Students making progress toward completion of a master's-level thesis but unable to finish in a single semester, can apply for a thesis extension. They must then register for BE 7487. A thesis extension fee will be assessed.

However students choose to meet the capstone experience requirement, those not doing a thesis must register for course credit under one of the following course numbers: BE 7476; BE 7478; or BE 7480. Students should register for BE 7476, BE 7478, BE 7480 in the semester they intend to start the project or paper or take the comprehensive exam. Students making progress toward completion of a capstone (other than the comprehensive examination) but unable to finish in a single semester, can apply for a capstone extension. They must then register for BE 7486. A capstone extension fee will be assessed.

Students should schedule a capstone preparation meeting with the bioethics program director at least one semester prior to working on the capstone requirement in order to discuss topical areas, capstone options, and a potential supervisor. An Independent Study & Capstone Registration form (available on MyTIU) must be completed to register for all capstone and guided research (BE 7501) courses. All capstones involving research with human subjects must be approved by the TIU IRB prior to the beginning of that research, with the application for approval due by the end of the semester that precedes the semester in which the research is to take place.

Course Sequencing

Either BE 5000 or BE 5100 must be taken before BE 6500. When the elective BE 7300 is offered, only those who have clinical/medical experience (or permission from the professor) and have completed BE 5300 can take it. It is recommended that the three foundational courses—BE 5001, BE 5002, and either BE 5000 or BE 5100—be taken before other bioethics courses. Professors teaching other bioethics courses will assume that all students in those courses either will have taken these four courses or will at least have read a relevant text for each of those courses not yet taken. A list of relevant texts (https://my.tiu.edu/ICS/Campus_Life/Campus_Groups/Bioethics/) for these courses may be found in the TGS Bioethics Department section of MyTIU.

Trinity provides the opportunity for students to earn multiple masters degrees without substantially lengthening their stay. Multiple Masters options include:

- MA in Bioethics / MA in Chaplaincy and Ministry Care (<http://catalog.tiu.edu/graduate/academic-life/multiple-masters-programs/mabe-paired-with-macmc/>)
- MA in Bioethics / Master of Divinity (<http://catalog.tiu.edu/graduate/academic-life/multiple-masters-programs/mabe-paired-with-teds-masters/>)
- MA in Bioethics / MA in Leadership (<http://catalog.tiu.edu/graduate/academic-life/multiple-masters-programs/mabe-paired-with-mal/>)
- MA in Bioethics / MA in Ministry (<http://catalog.tiu.edu/graduate/academic-life/multiple-masters-programs/mabe-paired-with-mamin/>)
- MA in Bioethics / MA - Theological Studies Concentration (<http://catalog.tiu.edu/graduate/academic-life/multiple-masters-programs/mabe-paired-with-mats/>)

Model Curricular Plan for the Dual Degree

The following is a *sample course plan* for the dual degree. Plans may vary for individual students. Students are expected to consult with their undergraduate and graduate advisors to make individual adjustments to the curricular plan as necessary. During the fall and spring semesters, as students complete their course requirements for general education and major and take graduate coursework toward the MA, they are reminded that a full academic course load must include at least 12 hours of combined graduate and undergraduate courses per semester.

Recommended undergraduate courses to be completed before starting the MA coursework:

Code	Title	Hours
BI 105	Understanding the Old Testament ¹	3
or BI 115	Understanding the New Testament	
BI 211	Ethics and the Bible	3
BIO 111	General Biology	4
or BIO 103	Introductory Biology	
PH 180	Introduction to Philosophy	3

Other general education courses and required major courses

¹ BE 5001 substitutes for either BI 105 or BI 115.

Undergraduate general education requirements that will be fulfilled by graduate-level courses and need not be duplicated with undergraduate work

- BI 105 **or** BI 115: BE 5001 replaces either BI 105 or BI 115 in general education
- **Diversity, Traditions, and Culture:** BE 5002 replaces one course in the *Diversity, Traditions, and Culture subcategory* under Chapter Two: Exploring.
- BE 5000 or BE 5100 replaces BE 474X in the *World of Contemporary Social and Political Life* category in "Chapter Two: Exploring."

Undergraduate major requirements that may be fulfilled by graduate-level courses and need not be duplicated with undergraduate work

- Any approved undergraduate major or elective course: (up to 6 hours) of graduate credit can replace up to 6 hours of additional undergraduate credit. Students should check with advisors to determine if there are courses in their major that can be replaced with graduate coursework.

Students should note that BE courses are offered in several formats: traditional (15 week), modular (meets two weekends in a semester), online, summer conference associated courses, and independent study courses.

At least two courses must be taken in residency at the Bannockburn, IL campus:

Code	Title	Hours
BE 5100	Intensive Bioethics Institute	3
BE 6500	Advanced Bioethics Institute	3-4

BE 5100 and BE 6500 are offered during the summer at the time of the annual National Bioethics Conference on the Bannockburn campus. BE 5100 can be replaced by BE 5000 – a 15-week course offered in the fall semester on the Bannockburn campus.

Each spring semester, students are invited to participate in a series of three evening bioethics colloquia. The Bioethics Colloquium course (BE 6100) can also be taken for elective credit toward the MA in Bioethics.

Service Learning Requirement

Students can fulfill Trinity College's service learning requirement by working with The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity (CBHD) during the summer National Bioethics Conference, with optional free attendance at the conference in the summers following the freshman and sophomore years.

Application to the Dual Degree Program

Upon completion of 70 hours with a 3.0 GPA, students must submit an application and letter of recommendation to Trinity Graduate School Admissions to be accepted into the Dual Degree program.

Code	Title	Hours
First Summer		
BE 5100	Intensive Bioethics Institute	3
BE 5900	Bioethics National Conference (elective)	2-3
Fall Semester		
BE 5001	Foundations for Integrative Thought in Bioethics	3
BE 5002	Foundations for Cultural Engagement in Bioethics	3
BE 5200	Research Ethics	2
BE 5499	The Public Policy Context (optional) ¹	1
BE 5500	Bioethics and Public Policy	2
Spring Semester		
BE 5299	The Clinical Context (optional) ¹	1
BE 5300	Clinical Issues in Bioethics	2
BE 6200	Ethical Theory	3
Second Summer		
BE 5900	Bioethics National Conference	2-3
BE 6500	Advanced Bioethics Institute	3-4
Capstone		
(0-4 hours of the following)		
BE 7476	Bioethics Capstone Exam	0
BE 7478	Bioethics Capstone Project	0-3
BE 7480	Bioethics Capstone Integrative or Major Paper	0-3
BE 7485	MA Thesis ²	0-4
Total Hours		30

¹ Students relatively unfamiliar with clinical-medical and/or public policy settings will need to use one or two of their elective hours in order to take the background courses BE 5299 and/or BE 5499 either concurrently or during the previous semester.

² BE 7485 requires ID 6910, a research methods course, as a prerequisite.